

In the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes new Fig. 4.

Attachment: New Drawing sheet

REMARKS

The drawings stand rejected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as failing to show several features which are recited in the claims. Applicant has provided new Figure 4 to depict the recited features. Figure 4 does not constitute new matter as the features depicted may be found at least at page 12, lines 1-12 of applicant's specification.

Applicant has also amended the first paragraph of page 12, and the Brief Description of the Drawings section of the specification to refer to new Figure 4 as well as the reference numerals used therein.

Claims 25-29, support for which may be found at least at pages 11-15 of applicant's specification and in Figures 1-3, have been added to round out the scope of the claims.

The Examiner has objected to claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 13 and 16, 18, 20-22 for various reasons. Applicant has mooted the objections by way of the following explanations.

In claim 1, the "contacting test contacts" are the test contacts which are in direct contact with the contacts of the semiconductor chip as shown in Fig 4, and explained at least at page 12 of the specification.

In claim 4, applicant respectfully submits that the claim further limits claim 1 be requiring that the test carrier is loaded at a carrier loading station and that the contacting is tested therein.

In claim 7, applicant respectfully submits that applicant is not required to further identify which device is used for determining a time frame.

In claim 8, applicant respectfully submits that applicant is not required to further identify how the pad is interrelated to the contacts of the semiconductor.

In claim 13, a loading chip is a chip which outputs a signal which indicates that a carrier has been loaded with a semiconductor chip.

In claims 16, 18 and 20-22, the additional contact is a contact other than “the one or more contacting test contacts [which] are not used during ordinary operation of the semiconductor chip” as recited in claim 15.

Claims 1-3, 5-17, 19-21, 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(a) on Matsuda (U.S. Patent No. 4,730,156). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 recites “loading the test carrier with the semiconductor chip such that contacts of the semiconductor chip directly contact corresponding contacts of the test carrier.” Matsuda does not disclose or suggest such features.

Instead, Matsuda discloses a system for testing contacting between a semiconductor package and a printed circuit board (col. 1, lines 9-11 and 49-51; col. 2, lines 63-64). In Matsuda’s device, contacts of individual semiconductor chips never make direct contact with a test carrier as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, Matsuda does not disclose or suggest that “the contacting between the test carrier and the semiconductor chip is tested immediately after the loading of the test carrier with the semiconductor chip,” as recited in claim 1. Matsuda discloses testing a contacting during a “cold start” (col. 1, lines 12-14 and 55-56), instead of immediately after the loading of a test carrier. Applicant notes that Matsuda does not even disclose loading a test carrier with a semiconductor chip, but instead teaches loading a printed circuit board with an IC package.

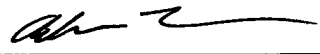
Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Matsuda. Similarly, independent claims 12 and 26 recite features substantially similar to those of claim 1 discussed above, and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Claims 2, 3, 5-11, 13-7, 19-21, 23-25 and 27-29 depend from allowable claims and are therefore allowable due at least to their respective dependencies.

Applicant solicits an early action allowing the claims.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. **543822002400**.

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